

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

May 9, 2001  
City Council Chambers  
City of La Quinta  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Michael Smith at 10:00 a.m. on May 9, 2001, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present: Mary Ann E. Martin Andreas, Dr. Dan Baxley, Gary Johnson, Leon M. Lesicka, Michael A Smith, Brenda Soulliere, and Nancy S. Wright

**2. Staff Present**

Alex Alimohammadi, Jeff Allred, Jose Angel, Adnan Al-Sarabi, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Liann Chavez, Jose Cortez, Kristie Garcia, Phil Gruenberg, Chris Igbiniedion, Kirk Larkin, Teresa Newkirk, Robert Perdue, Joan Stormo, Hilda Vasquez and Doug Wylie

**3. Others Present**

Jim Carlberg, Kent SeaTech  
Rod Chamberlain, Kent SeaTech  
Andy Fisichelli, Montgomery Watson  
Cristobal Gonzalez, Twentynine Palms Marine Corps  
Alan Harrell, Coachella Valley Water District  
Randy Hines, City of El Centro  
Mike Massingill, Kent SeaTech  
Karen O'Haire, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC  
Rex Sharp, Valley Sanitary District  
Pete Silva, State Water Resources Control Board  
Bob Voorhies, Twentynine Palms Marine Corps

**4. Minutes of Meeting of March 14, 2001**

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the minutes be approved as submitted.

**5. Public Forum**

No one from the public chose to speak.

## 6. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

### NPDES Permits

01-003 Kent SeaTech Corporation, Owner/Operator, Fish Farm – Mecca, Riverside County

### Waste Discharge Requirements

01-009 United States Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Natural Resources/Environmental Affairs Division, Owner/Operator, Fire Fighting Training Facility – Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County

01-018 Specialty Minerals Inc., Owner/Operator, Group C Mining Waste Management Facility – Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County

01-022 City of Banning, Owner, United Water Services, Operator, Banning Wastewater Reclamation Facility, and Wastewater Collection and Disposal Systems – Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County

01-095 Change of Ownership and/or name

97-026 Pima Gro – Chuckwalla Hydrologic Unit  
Riverside County

97-027 Pima Gro – Colorado Hydrologic Unit  
Riverside County

97-028 Pima Gro – Whitewater Hydrologic Unit  
Riverside County

97-050 Needles Waste Management Facility  
Needles – San Bernardino County

98-003 Landers Waste Management Facility  
Landers – San Bernardino County

00-001 Second Imperial Geothermal Company  
Heber – Imperial County

00-024 Twentynine Palms Sanitary Landfill  
Twentynine Palms – San Bernardino County

00-072 Heber Geothermal Company  
Heber – Imperial County

01-097      Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements

92-009      Picacho Peak Mine  
                 Yuma - Arizona

98-074      Kuhn Farms Dairy  
                 El Centro – Imperial County

MOTION:      Ms. Andreas moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motioned carried unanimously that Orders No. 01-003, 01-009, 01-018, 01-022, 01-095 and 01-097, including the errata, be adopted.

NOTE:          Ms. Wright abstained from voting on Orders No. 01-019 and 01-020.

01-019      Mission Springs Water District, Owner/Operator, Desert Crest Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Wastewater Collection and Disposal Systems – Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County

01-020      Mission Springs Water District, Owner/Operator, Alan Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Wastewater Collection and Disposal System – Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County

MOTION:      Dr. Baxley moved, Ms. Soulliere seconded, and motioned carried unanimously that Orders No. 01-019 and 01-020, including the errata, be adopted.

## **7. Update on State Board Activities**

Pete Silva, State Board Liaison, gave a brief report on several items before the State Board.

## **8. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report**

Phil Gruenberg reported that he, Jose Angel, and Jose Figueroa met with Victor Hermosillo, Mayor of Mexicali, to discuss Border Pollution. Discussions included advanced treatment to remove pathogens at the Mexicali lagoons, monitoring the New River in Mexicali, and pretreatment of industrial wastewater.

Mr. Gruenberg reported that he recently issued two Mandatory Minimum Penalty ACLCs. An ACLC in the amount of \$33,000 was issued to Calipatria State Prison due to noncompliance at their sewage treatment plant. An ACLC in the amount of \$30,000 was issued to the City of Coachella, also for noncompliance at their sewage treatment plant. If hearings are requested, they will take place at the June Board Meeting.

Mr. Gruenberg read a letter he received from Tom Kirk, Salton Sea Authority, addressing appreciation for the Regional Board's involvement in Salton Sea restoration efforts.

Mr. Gruenberg stated that the Regional Board may be chosen to host an upcoming Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) meeting in September or October 2001.

## **9. Regional Board Staff Reports**

- Teresa Newkirk announced that there will be a Public Workshop regarding the Alamo River Silt TMDL at the Imperial Valley Fairgrounds on May 24, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. Also, there will be a Public Hearing regarding the Alamo River Sediment and New River Pathogen TMDLs held at the City of La Quinta City Council Chambers on June 27, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Newkirk reported that Regional Board staff is currently working on the Salton Sea Nutrient TMDL as well as the New River Silt TMDL. A Public Notice for the New River Silt TMDL is expected to be issued in August or September 2001.

- Jose Angel reported that Regional Board staff will be working on Basin Plan Amendments to address septic tank issues, primarily in the Yucca Valley and Cathedral City areas.

Mr. Angel gave an update on Proposition 13 grants (Prop 13). Two Public Workshops have been held for the public to recommend priority projects for funding under Prop 13 and other State Grants. At this point, there are two projects in the region that made the cut for funding statewide: one is the Mission Springs septic tank project, and the other project is a proposal from the Salton Sea Authority to implement a pilot plant to remove nutrients going into the Salton Sea. State Board will be sending requests for the next round of proposals at approximately the end of May 2001.

Mr. Angel stated that the Regional Board is in the process of receiving certification for its on-site laboratory.

- Mr. Gruenberg introduced new Regional Board staff member, Doug Wylie. Mr. Wylie reported on a recent Federal Ninth Circuit Court Ruling, *Headwaters, Inc. versus Talent Irrigation District*, regarding discharges of aquatic pesticides into waters of the nation to prevent the growth of algae, weeds, mosquitoes, etc.

This Ruling requires that dischargers discharging aquatic pesticides directly into surface waters of the U.S. obtain an NPDES permit. Regional Board staff plans to contact dischargers in this Region to find out if they are applying aquatic pesticides, and if so, direct them to submit appropriate documentation. Staff will review the information, conduct field investigations and make recommendations to the Board. Staff also plans to contact other Regional Boards to acquire information on how they plan to implement this Ruling.

Mr. Wylie stated that the State Water Resources Control Board has prepared a Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order for these discharges that may be used on an interim basis.

## **10. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Wright stated that the last WQCC was a very informative and productive meeting.

## **11. Regional Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Smith reported that he and Mr. Gruenberg attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of wastewater improvement projects in Mexicali.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.